Beavers Puts Police on Trail of Men Blamed By Girl Guests for Situation in Downtown Hotels

GIRL VICTIM BARES HOTEL CONDITIONS TO RECORDER

Judge Broyles Hears Sensational Expose of Vice Situation Said to Exist in Many Atlanta Rooming Houses

As the outcome of the dramatic confession made by Hattie Smith in the recorder's court Wednesday afternoon Chief Beavers announced Thursday morning that he will open a war against the men who, he asserts, are ruining girls.

Following the trial in court Wednesday the chief says that Hattie Smith gave him more details than came out in the testimony, detailed though it was. He says that he now has the names of several men whom the Smith girl says she had taken auto rides with. The chief says that he will take steps against these men.

In beginning his campaign, the chief makes the statement that he holds the men responsible for the life led by the wayward woman. Poor girls, without even the necessities of life, have no show against men who are always on the watch to prey upon them, declared Beavers.

SMITH GIRL TELLS STORY.

Hattie Smith, the seventeen-year-old girl whose revelations to the police have been more or less of a sensation for several days, told her story Wednesday afternoon to Recorder Broyles.

It was a story of a pretty girl, an older woman, automobile joy rides, and registering at hotels under assumed names as the wife of various men, and when it was finished the recorder bound her over to the city court under bond of $100, together with Clyde Cox, the young man with her in a hotel room when the police arrested her.

The girl made a soda fount on James street the first scene of her story. She said she frequented the place. It was there, two weeks ago last Saturday, that she met Lena Barnhart, alias Lena Levison.

She said she was attracted by the woman's handsome appearance and her popularity with the men. She inquired the woman's name. Presently a man friend invited her to take an automobile ride. She accepted, and at the curb she found the Barnhart woman sitting in the front seat of the machine.

They went out Pace's ferry road and returned at nightfall. The Barnhart woman suggested that they go to a rest room down town, and there the woman "tidied her up."

WENT TO HOTEL.

Then the woman suggested that they go to the Cumberland hotel, saying she woul [sic] go first and let the girl come later "to avoid suspicion." She went as directed, going to the woman's room. She was told that her name had been put on the register as "Lucile Evans."

And according to her story she was thereafter on the go almost continually up to the time of her arrest. She named the Cumberland, the Brittain and the Childs hotels as places where she had stopped. She told her story frankly and with no apparent embarrassment.

The Barnhart woman did not deny being with the woman, but asserted she was acting out of sympathy for "a shabbily dressed, penniless girl who had nowhere to go." She said the girl's conduct "made her suspect she was crooked," but she tried to believe to the contrary and help her as best she could.

Recorder Broyles did not take much stock in the "sympathy" story.

"You are not fit to be a mother," said he. (The woman has a three-year-old child.) "You can't raise a child in the life you are leading. It will see a brighter day when installed in a charitable home. The best thing for you to do is to leave town."

The recorder then bound her over under bond of $500, and bound over Lige Murry, charged with being her accomplice, under bond of $100.

Grand Jury Meets to Indict Conley

Call Is Issued After Solicitor General Hugh Dorsey Had Flatly Refused Request of Foreman.

A call for the Fulton grand jury to meet at 10 o'clock Monday to take steps leading to the indictment of James Conley, the negro sweeper of the National Pencil factory who accuses Leo M. Frank, its superintendent, of the Mary Phagan murder was issued yesterday by Foreman W.D. Beattie after Solicitor General Hugh M. Dorsey had flatly refused the foreman's request to call the meeting.

The move to indict Conley is wrong and should not be made, the solicitor told the grand jury foreman when discussing the matter with him and the call which went out was over the head of the state's legal representative in Fulton county.

Smith Attacks Action

[…] representative of Conley declared in a statement which he issued Friday afternoon that the indictment of Conley would probably follow the meeting and he also attacked the members of the grand jury for their action in taking this move against the advice of the solicitor.

Solicitor Dorsey issued the following statement in regard to the meeting.

Its only purpose will be to exploit the evidence and embarrass the state and I hope the grand jury when it meets will decide to leave the matter alone.

The indictment of Conley at this time will be a useless procedure that will not stop the trial of Frank. It will only have a mild but undesirable effect on the state's case.

Conley is in jail and is going to stay there for some time. He is where the authorities can put their hands on him and he can be indicted much more properly after the Frank case has been disposed of than before and by the delay there is no danger of a miscarriage of justice.

Will Aid the Defense

Should Conley be indicted it is positive that the solicitor will not allow him to go to trial before the final disposition of the Frank case which is set for trial Monday week but the attorneys who represent Frank would probably get before the court the fact that Conley is under indictment for the time for which they will be defending Frank. This and the fact that it will appear to the jury that Conley, in swearing against Frank, will be influenced to a greater or lesser degree by a desire to save his own neck, would greatly aid the defense.

When the grand jury meets Monday to take up the investigation of Conley it will be the first time in the history of the county that a grand jury has gone directly against the advice of the solicitor who is paid by the state as their legal adviser.

Solicitor Dorsey will also be compelled to produce what evidence he has in the case, should the grand jurors request such action.

Attorney Smith's Statement

The statement as issued by Attorney Smith on behalf of Conley is as follows:

I notice Foreman Beattie has called the grand jury to meet Monday. When they meet I would like for them to first investigate the movement that seems to have stirred their enthusiasm. I wish the press could afford to publish what I have the nerve to say about this latest move.

If they meet, I do not doubt they will indict Jim all right. If they get up inspiration enough to run over the state's sworn counsel in getting together they can see their way to indict.

Jim Conley has been dealing fairly with the state of Georgia. His story has been an open book to the sworn trusted prosecuting officers of this state. He is not skulking coward-like behind the protection of iron bars nor have his lips been sealed with lamb-like silence until he can spring suddenly in a court a well-prepared statement which the state has no opportunity to investigate and

disprove. Conley allows himself grilled cross examined and unceasingly questioned by the representatives of the state. He is talking and talking now. Conley says to the state of Georgia here is my story investigate it, sift it, and prove it a lie if you can.

What more could the grand jury ask? Conley is giving the state a square deal. Conley is remaining a voluntary prisoner and no honest citizen doubts that he will be held to account for his part in this terrible tragedy.

Better Leave Him Alone.

If the grand jury do not want to please Frank and his friends, if they do not want to help clear Frank, they had better leave this alone for the present. The good people of this county elected Hugh Dorsey as the solicitor general. Under the law this makes him the legal adviser of the grand jury. There is not a business man on the grand jury that does not follow in his own affairs the advice of the lawyer of character and ability to whom he goes for counsel. Let the grand jury do with the public business what they would do with their own matters, follow the advice of the sworn representative of the good people of this county.

Does the grand jury think their legal judgment or their personal integrity above that of our solicitor general? Or do they doubt the professional or private character of Hugh Dorsey? The people of this county know that Dorsey is straight, that in this case he is fighting brains money and influence. I know that he is standing for what he thinks right and with constant threats thrown at him that they will defeat him at the next election and with every handicap thrown in his way in the discharge of his duty in prosecuting a white man who has wealth and influence. It is the supreme test of a man's good character and I glory in the fact that Hugh Dorsey has those high and honorable traits of his good father and mother that enables him to know the right and knowing the right to dare to do it.

WILLIAM M. SMITH.